

DOCKET NO.: BELL-0162/01329
Application No.: 10/055,242
Office Action Dated: June 3, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated June 3, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the following amendments and remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Upon entry of the amendment claims 1-19 will be pending. Claims 1-12 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 9 are independent claims from which claims 2-8, and 10-11 respectively depend. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found on page 13 lines 8-30 and elsewhere in the application as filed. Claims 13-19 have been newly added. Support for the new claims can be found on page 8, lines 3-7 and lines 19-30 and elsewhere in the application as filed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview held on July 6, 2004. Attached herewith is an Interview Summary.

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract because "it is unclear as to whether the subscriber is the calling party, called party or both". Please replace the Abstract with the following paragraph:

A system and method enables a caller to detect subscribers to a privacy screening service. The caller detection of privacy screening is initiated when a subscriber to the caller detection of privacy screening service places a telephone call to a called party. After the calling party enters the telephone number of the called party, the caller detection of privacy screening service places a query to an SCP. The SCP determines if the called party is a subscriber to privacy screening. If the called party is a subscriber to privacy screening, the call is not completed, and a message is sent from the SCP to the SSP indicating that this is a caller detection of privacy screening call. This information is forwarded from the SSP to a billing system for processing as a caller detection of privacy screening charge. If the called party is not a subscriber to privacy screening, the call is completed and normal charges accrue.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stevens et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,353,663). It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are patentable for the reasons set forth below.

FIG. 1 illustrates a telecommunications environment in which a caller detection of privacy screening service may be implemented. When a subscriber to a caller detection of privacy screening service at telephone station 101 places a call to a called party at telephone

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station 105, an off-hook delay trigger may be activated and the call suspended. A query may be sent to SCP 107 asking for directions as to how the call should be completed. SCP 107 may look up the called party's telephone directory number in its database 107a to see if the called party's telephone number is associated with a privacy screening service. If the called party is associated with a privacy screening service, SCP 107 may send a message to SSP 103 instructing SSP 103 to disconnect the call (*i.e.*, before charges associated with connecting the call are accrued). SCP 107 may also send SSP 103 information to be included on a billing record sent to billing system 120. The billing record may indicate that the caller detection of privacy screening service detected that a subscriber to caller detection of privacy screening has attempted to place a call to a subscriber to a privacy screening service and may bill these calls at a specified rate to the subscriber to caller detection of privacy service.

Amended claim 1, for example, recites:

A method for detecting a call made to a telephone station associated with a privacy screening service routed from a first telephone station to a second telephone station via a switching network, comprising:

intercepting a call from a first telephone station, *the first telephone station associated with a subscriber to a caller detection of privacy screening service*, the call directed to a second telephone station;

determining if the second telephone station requires identification of the first telephone station for completion of the call; and

in response to determining that the second telephone station requires identification of the first telephone station for completion of the call, disconnecting the call *without response from the first telephone station and without response from the second telephone station*.

(emphasis added).

Stevens does not disclose or suggest at least the italicized features of Applicant's amended claim 1. The Stevens reference is directed to a method of avoiding unwanted calls by notifying a calling party that a fee will be charged for a connection to be established with a called party. (Stevens, column 3, lines 22-25). The calling party then enters a response indicating that the calling party declines or accepts the charge (Stevens, column 3, lines 34-40).

Hence, Stevens does not disclose or suggest at least a subscriber to a caller detection of privacy screening service or that the call is disconnected without response from either the

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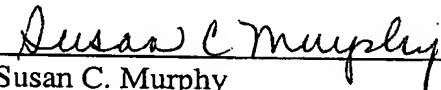
subscriber to the caller detection of privacy screening service or from the second telephone station.

Amended claim 9 includes analogous features.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1 and 9 and the claims that depend therefrom are not anticipated by Stevens and request the withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

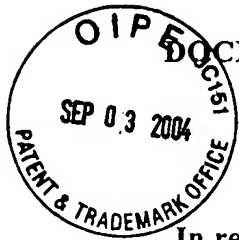
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Date: September 3, 2004



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Hong Thi Nguyen, et al

Confirmation No.: 8363

Application No.: 10/055,242

Group Art Unit: 2642

Filing Date: January 23, 2002

Examiner: Al Aubaidi, Rasha S

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD TO DETECT PRIVACY SCREENING

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Applicant-Initiated Interview Summary

Date of Interview: July 6, 2004

Interview Type: ☐ Personal ☒ Telephonic ☐ Electronic Mail ☐ Video Conference ☐ Other:

Participants:

From PTO: (Include Name and Title)

1. Rasha S. Al Aubaidi, Examiner
2. Ahmad Matar, Supervisory Patent Examiner
- 3.

For Applicant:

1. Susan C. Murphy, Attorney
2. , choose one: Applicant, Attorney, Agent
3. , choose one: Applicant, Attorney, Agent
4. , choose one: Applicant, Attorney, Agent

☐ An exhibit or demonstration was included and is described below:

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PATENT

The claims discussed included: Claim(s) 1 and 9.

The ☐ art ☒ prior art discussed included:

Stevens et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,353,663

An agreement ☒ was ☐ was not reached.

☐ It was agreed that the attached claims are allowable.

☐ It was agreed that the attached amendment would be entered.

☒ The interview is summarized below.

Claims 1 and 9 were discussed with respect to the reference Stevens et al. Agreement was reached that identifying that the call logic is triggered by a call from a telephone station subscribing to a privacy detecting service and that the call is disconnected *without user input* will distinguish the claims over the cited art.

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